



HR1218

LRB096 22255 HLH 41133 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Illinois' hardworking families and private sector employees have faced layoffs, pay cuts, loss of benefits, and other employment concessions; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois is experiencing an unprecedented fiscal crisis resulting in billions in unpaid bills, a projected \$1.3 billion shortfall for education in Fiscal Year 2011, and reductions to human services programs that assist Illinois' most vulnerable citizens; and

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WHEREAS, The Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability estimates that Illinois' Fiscal Year 2011 budget will have a \$13 billion deficit; and

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WHEREAS, The Governor's proposed Fiscal Year 2011 budget proposes to close this gap with a combination of fee and tax increases, including a 33% income tax increase, fund transfers, multi-billion dollar borrowing schemes, no pay raises for merit compensation employees, as well as instituting furlough days for these employees; and

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WHEREAS, According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Illinois has lost 475,000 wage and salary jobs since November 2000, a decline of 7.64%, and economic forecasts

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1 predict a slow recovery for the State of Illinois; and

2 WHEREAS, In March 2000, the unemployment rate was 4.4%, and
3 in March 2010, the unemployment rate was 11.5%; and

4 WHEREAS, Personal income in Illinois fell 2.1% during 2009,
5 outstripping the national average decline of 1.7%, according to
6 estimates released by the United States Bureau of Economic
7 Analysis; the 2.1% decline ranks Illinois 38th in the nation;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, In Fiscal Year 2011, \$336.2 million is being
10 budgeted by Governor Quinn to fulfill employee collective
11 bargaining agreements; \$230.6 million to annualize Fiscal Year
12 2010 pay raises and \$105.6 million for Cost-of-Living and Step
13 increases; and

14 WHEREAS, In light of Illinois' bleak economic forecast and
15 extraordinarily large projected budget shortfall, it is
16 fiscally irresponsible to consider salary increases in Fiscal
17 Year 2011 for State employees when education and social service
18 programs are being reduced or unfunded due to lack of funds;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, State employees represented by unions should
21 forgo compensation increases in these tough economic times by

1 also making sacrifices to share in the recovery of Illinois'
2 economy; and

3 WHEREAS, No State revenue enhancements to balance the
4 budget should be considered until all budget expenditures are
5 thoroughly reviewed to ensure wasteful or unnecessary spending
6 is eliminated from the budget; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
8 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
9 that we urge the Governor to reopen collective bargaining
10 agreements to remove pay increases as a means to (i) reduce
11 State expenditures and (ii) ensure the additional funding is
12 directed to education and social service programs; and be it
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to
15 the Governor.